



Corporate Parenting: Ministerial Introduction Session

16<sup>th</sup> January 2023

MINUTES

## **Corporate Parenting: Ministerial Introduction Session**

**16th January 2023**

**15:30-17:30**

### **ATTENDEES**

Minister for Children and Education  
Assistant Minister for Children and Education and Assistant Minister for Treasury and Resources  
Minister for Home Affairs  
Minister for Housing  
Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services and Assistant Minister for Social Security  
Representative for States of Jersey Police  
Representative for Andium  
Group Director Children's Services  
Associate Director of Innovation and Transformation  
Assistant Director Policy SPPP  
Research and Administration Officer

### **Apologies**

Minister for Health and Social Services  
Chief Officer CYPES  
Director of Local Services  
Assistant Minister for Children and Education and Assistant Minister for Home Affairs

### **1. Review Terms of Reference**

The Board reviewed the Terms of Reference. The Assistant Minister for Health and Social Services and Assistant Minister for Social Security suggested changing the number of members required to call a meeting to either 4, one of which should be a States Member, or six in total. The Board agreed to change this point in the draft Terms of Reference.

The Minister for Children and Education noted that some wording should be added to the Terms of Reference around how the Board would work in conjunction with the other Children's Boards. The Assistant Director Policy SPPP agreed to amend the Terms of Reference to highlight the connection between Boards and also wider safeguarding systems and risks. He would update Children's Boards ToR accordingly.

The Group Director of Children's Services noted that the Terms of References needed to be clearer about which officers would support the Board.

The Board discussed broader options for the roles of the former Children's Strategic Leadership Board and Children's Strategic Partnership Board, in light of previous workshop discussions. The Corporate Parenting Board focussed clearly on Corporate Parenting activities and there was also the Safeguarding Ministerial Board. The Group Director of Children's Services noted that the Strategic Partnership was to oversee progress in the

Children and Young People's Plan. The Assistant Director Policy SPPP agreed that it was important to avoid duplication and overlap in the structure of the Children's Boards. He suggested that the refreshed Children's and Young People's plan could be used as a framework for alignment of intelligence and insights. The Minister for Home Affairs noted it was important that the structure gave space for the involvement of community organisations. The Minister for Children and Education suggested that the new Board could meet after Easter, in September, and December.

## **2. Recruitment of Voluntary Sector Representatives**

The Board discussed the process for the recruitment of two Voluntary Sector Representatives. It was agreed that this needed to be a transparent process and that asking Director of Local Services to recruit volunteer representatives from the Children's Cluster Group was the most appropriate means to achieve this. The Assistant Director Policy SPPP agreed to discuss this process with the Director of Local Services. The Board also agreed that the two representatives needed to be consistent, and it was preferable that one of the organisations focussed specifically on children in care and that the other organisation worked with a broader group of children in the community. The Children's Cluster Group could arrange nominating their two chosen Board representatives.

## **3. Arrangements for Full Membership and Representation from Children in Care and Care Leavers**

The Minister for Children and Education led a discussion on how the Board could work effectively with children and care leavers. The Group Director of Children's Services noted that the Care Ambassadors had been a very small group and it would be preferable to get a broader representation from children in care and care leavers. She also highlighted it was important that the structure of Board meetings was suitable for those involved and that proper support for attendance was provided. The Minister for Children and Education was keen to encourage wider participation and engagement. She suggested that the Chief Officer of CYPES and Interim Associate Director of Engagement and Participation could engage with these groups to identify Board members amongst care experienced children and young people. Group Director of Children's Services took an action to confirm a consistent approach to membership and representation at the Board.

## **4. Draft Work Plan**

The Board discussed support and resources, including increasing future project and program support capacity. The Minister for Children and Education highlighted the need for an officer who was responsible for the Board and guiding the agenda. The Assistant Director Policy SPPP outlined a draft forward plan for the Board to approve. This included the launch of Statutory Guidance and training, and an engagement in Q2 event and 'call to action' to support Corporate Parent Planning by 24<sup>th</sup> April. The Statutory Guidance for Corporate Parents would be lodged as a Report with the Greffe and this would be supported by training materials for Corporate Parents. The Board could provide support and opportunities for Corporate Parents to align with one another. Corporate Parents needed to publish a plan, this could be done in a single collective plan, or each Corporate Parent could publish their own plan. The Minister for Children and Education was keen to bring forward the engagement with children in care to quarter two.

# Corporate Parenting



The Board discussed the role of the Corporate Parenting Board going forwards and the kind of items that would be discussed. The Minister for Children and Education suggested an example of securing children's residential accommodation before 22:00. The Chief of Police felt that the Board could discuss practical matters and provide guidance. It was considered that the Board could be a space for hearing the children's voice and sufficiency discussions. The Board could also consider the development of policy and legislation. The Minister for Children and Education highlighted the Board's role in identifying if children and care leavers were getting the support they needed and also for assisting with future planning, such as Andium housing requirements.

The Chief of Police noted that there needed to be clarity on what the Board hoped to achieve and clear agreed outcomes to work towards. He noted tensions in the system. The Minister for Children and Education agreed that a list of shared challenges, relevant to Corporate Parenting, should be identified and included on the agenda for future Board meetings. The Chief of Police highlighted the importance of having clear evidence-based discussion before making any recommendations.

The Assistant Director Policy SPPP suggested a key role for the Board in providing guidance/support on practical Corporate Parenting challenges. In developing a view the Board would actively seek the views and insights of children and care leavers. The Minister for Children and Education noted the need for clear actions following the meetings.

## **ACTIONS**

The Assistant Director Policy SPPP to make suggested amendments to the draft Terms of Reference.

The Assistant Director Policy SPPP to liaise with the Director of Local Services to recruit Board representatives from the voluntary sector from the Children's Cluster group.

The Research and Administration Officer to request Board members to identify Corporate Parenting Challenges in the system that would benefit from Board discussion during 2023.

The Research and Administration Officer to schedule Board dates for 2023.

The Assistant Director Policy SPPP to make amend draft Board Work Plan.

Chief Officer of CYPES to advise on wider Chief Officer sponsor for Corporate Parenting

The Chief Officer of CYPES and Interim Associate Director of Engagement and Participation to engage with children in care and care leavers to identify Board members.